

A year ago, we learned again that the national law enforcement system is only as strong as its weakest link. If all jurisdictions everywhere are not full partners in the legitimate, practical, day-to-day operations of the existing national system for information sharing and Federal-State cooperation, each of us anywhere is at risk.

The information now available demonstrates that the enormous tragedies of a year ago might well have been entirely prevented if authorities in a State far from the Washington area had used the existing Federal resources available to them.

The fact is, on the night of September 21, 2002, 11 days before the sniper shootings began in the Washington area, the local police in Montgomery, AL, obtained a clear fingerprint of a suspect in a brutal robbery and murder. As we now know, that fingerprint matched a print on file in the FBI electronic matching system.

That information could have quickly led the authorities to Malvo and Muhammad, the two people later charged with the Washington area killings that began on October 2 that year.

A State crime laboratory with a few thousand dollars worth of proper hardware and free software from the FBI could have transmitted the Alabama fingerprint to the FBI system on Sunday morning, September 22. That system would have automatically compared the print with the 45 million prints in the system. The matching print could have been found and identified by the FBI by noon on that Sunday. In fact, the FBI's average response time on such print matches was 3 hours and 16 minutes last year.

The FBI's State assistance program makes it easy and inexpensive for a State to transmit unidentified prints directly to the automated fingerprint system. The Justice Department even provides grants to help with the costs.

But 15 States, including the State of Alabama, are not yet fully connected to the FBI system. They cannot transmit the fingerprints found at crime scenes directly to the FBI's automated 24-hour-a-day fingerprint searching system.

In the Alabama case, had the full facilities available from the Federal Government been utilized, look-out alerts or arrest warrants for the Alabama murder suspects could have been circulated throughout the Nation some time between September 22 and September 24, followed quickly by the description and license plate number of the car they were using.

In other words, at least 7 full days before the first shooting in the Washington area, Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies could have identified Muhammad and Malvo and could have been searching urgently for them, because they were wanted for the robbery/murder in Alabama. Tragically, we now know that local police officers in two other States made traffic stops of the suspects' car and

checked the driver's license and plates with the national databases during those 7 days. But because the readily available national system had not been used, those checks produced no response. Malvo and Muhammad were not apprehended, and the DC area sniper shootings took place.

It is not my purpose to single out Alabama for special blame. This is a national problem. Fifteen States are not fully connected to the FBI's electronic matching system. Many other States may not take full advantage of this and other Federal resources.

The FBI spent \$640 million building its fingerprint system, because it persuaded Congress that "if we build it they will come." The system works well beyond the planners' dreams. It usually responds on a ten-fingerprint check of an arrested suspect within 20 minutes. It usually reports on an unknown single fingerprint within about 3 hours.

Thirty-five States are fully using this valuable resource. They use the system routinely and automatically, because as one police official put it, "You catch bad guys" this way. In fact, some police departments sent the FBI all the old unidentified prints they had as soon as they connected to the system. Time after time, even very old prints from unsolved cases were matched with prints in the system, and old crimes were finally solved.

On this sad anniversary of the DC sniper shootings, I hesitate to discuss these painful facts, when the victims' families are still grieving. But I, too, have been where they are now, and so I feel I can speak the painful truth, the truth that will teach us how to make the future better than the past.

The truth is that we now know this tragedy could have been prevented—not by tougher laws or more intrusive investigative powers, not by ethnic or racial profiling, but by strengthening and fully using the effective systems we already have in place.

Attorney General Ashcroft wants even more law enforcement powers that will threaten still more basic rights. But I say, let's fix the nuts and bolts of the system we already have. It is a scandal that 15 of our States are still not fully linked to the FBI system. The financial cost is small, and Federal grants are available to defray it and pay the cost of any training that is needed. Hopefully, no such avoidable tragedy will ever happen again, and the victims we mourn and honor today will not have died in vain.

CHANGE IN INTERNET SERVICES USAGE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that in accordance with title V of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Rules and Administration intends to update the "U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Regulations."

Based on the committee's review of the 1996 regulations, the following

changes to these policies have been adopted effective October 8, 2003.

The following changes have been made:

A. SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY:

Senate Internet Services (World Wide Web and Electronic mail) may only be used for official purposes. The use of Senate Internet Services for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

Members of the Senate, as well as Committee Chairmen and Officers of the Senate may post to the Internet Servers information files which contain matter relating to their official business, activities, and duties. All other offices must request approval from the Committee on Rules and Administration before posting material on the Internet Information Servers.

Websites covered by this policy must be located in the SENATE.GOV host-domain.

It is the responsibility of each Senator, Committee Chairman (on behalf of the committee), Officer of the Senate, or office head to oversee the use of the Internet Services by his or her office and to ensure that the use of the services is consistent with the requirements established by this policy and applicable laws and regulations.

Official records may not be placed on the Internet Servers unless otherwise approved by the Secretary of the Senate and prepared in accordance with Section 501 of Title 44 of the United States Code. Such records include, but are not limited to: bills, public laws, committee reports, and other legislative materials.

B. POSTING OR LINKING TO THE FOLLOWING MATTER IS PROHIBITED:

Political Matter.

a. Matter which specifically solicits political support for the sender or any other person or political party, or a vote or financial assistance for any candidate for any political office is prohibited.

b. Matter which mentions a Senator or an employee of a Senator as a candidate for political office, or which constitutes electioneering, or which advocates the election or defeat of any individuals, or a political party is prohibited.

Personal Matter.

a. Matter which by its nature is purely personal and is unrelated to the official business activities and duties of the sender is prohibited.

b. Matter which constitutes or includes any article, account, sketch, narration, or other text laudatory and complimentary of any Senator on a purely personal or political basis rather than on the basis of performance of official duties as a Senator is prohibited.

c. Reports of how or when a Senator, the Senator's spouse, or any other member of the Senator's family spends time other than in the performance of, or in connection with, the legislative, representative, and other official functions of such Senator is prohibited.

d. Any transmission expressing holiday greetings from a Senator is prohibited. This prohibition does not preclude an expression of holiday greetings at the commencement or conclusion of an otherwise proper transmission.

Promotional Matter.

a. The solicitation of funds for any purpose is prohibited.

b. The placement of logos or links used for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

C. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF INTERNET SERVICES:

During the 60 day period immediately preceding the date of any primary or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff)